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Opening Remarks
Meeting with Native Village of Tyonek
November 14, 2012

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- I want to thank you, President Standifer and council members who have taken the time to travel here to Anchorage to meet.
- This is a very important meeting for us because it's an important meeting and issue for you.
- We take our commitment to working with tribal governments very seriously -- not only because it's a priority for Administrator Jackson and the Agency, but because in so many tribal communities, environmental health, public health and economic health are almost indistinguishable from one another.
- My staff and I are very thankful for the positive working relationship we have with the Native Village of Tyonek.
- It's a relationship built during the EPA's time as lead agency, and continued during our time as cooperating agency.
- We believe the MOU we will be signing today will only build upon and strengthen that relationship.
- I believe this MOU will help both of us ensure that we communicate effectively on issues, and the Agency is fully engaged with Tyonek as the project proceeds and the regulatory process unfolds.
- However, I also want to emphasize the importance of building and maintaining positive working relations with the agencies charged with leading the regulatory and permitting process, namely COE and ADEC.

- Obviously, we recognize and appreciate Tyonek's concerns regarding the project.
- That's why the Chuitna proposal is a high priority project for Region 10 and the entire Agency.
- And, that's why I'm here today: we have a lot of work to do together, and it's time we formalize how we get it done.
- Again, thank you, Mr. President and council members.

- Grave sites - sacred grounds
- Protect the fish
- Air quality, water - asthma
- Eagle nests, ducks & geese - nesting areas
- Beavers
- September flooding
- welcome some development, but they have to work w/village
- containment ponds adequate to hold overflow?
- Can't risk the Chuit River
- Cooperating Agency status w/Corps